



Helping Seniors Of Brevard



Why See a Younger Dentist?

*Lee Sheldon, DMD, PA
Solid Bite*

I'm proud to announce that my son, Dr. Matthew Sheldon, has been selected to "40 Under 40" as one of the top 40 dentists in the U.S. under the age of 40 by a national dental publication, Incisal Edge magazine.

So let me tell you a little about my son and why he has achieved this award at the age of 35.

Matthew completed his dental training at Tufts and then went on to an Advanced Education in General Dentistry program at Texas A&M Health Sciences Center, where he studied under a number of professors led by Dr. Charles Wakefield, a noted teacher and restorative dentist. He quickly made his mark as a resident.

After completing his residency, it was Matthew's chance to select a practice. He selected mine, a periodontal practice, within which to practice restorative dentistry. Instantly, he took on a challenge far beyond his years.

Our patients had far greater needs than anyone would see in a residency. Full mouth dental implant cases, cosmetic cases, periodontally compromised cases, and full reconstructions. Dentists twenty years his senior often wouldn't see the complex cases that Matthew saw the moment he started.

While I was able to mentor him, Matthew had to succeed on his own. And he did. And now, six years later, a national organization recognizes his achievements.

Some might say that the safest way is to "go with the flow." When the flow is going in the best direction, perhaps that is good advice. But the flow usually goes downhill.

The person who separates him or herself from the pack, looking at ethics as the standard, may move an entire group in the right direction. And that is what Dr. Matthew Sheldon does every day.



Lifelong Florida Friends Say "I Do" at a VITAS IPU Wedding

*Kathleen Kashow
General Manager for
VITAS Healthcare in Brevard County*

For 35 years, Donn and Charla have been lifelong friends, steadfast companions through life in a non-romantic-but-always-close relationship.

In early 2020, Donn was diagnosed with brain cancer. In May, he was admitted to the VITAS® Healthcare Inpatient Hospice Care Unit (IPU). One day in June, as Charla was visiting Donn, VITAS team members learned of Donn's last wish to marry his dear friend.

The hospice team sprang into action. A chaplain and rabbi coordinated the ceremony and provided prayer shawls. VITAS employees decorated the IPU's gazebo into a chuppah, a Jewish wedding canopy, while others provided flowers, a wedding cake, and the music.

On a Friday in June, Donn's IPU care team carefully dressed him, positioned him in his wheelchair, and escorted him to the chuppah to meet his waiting friend and bride. Pink rose petals lined the walkway. A local pastor presided over the ceremony, and the two lifelong friends sealed their vows with a kiss and applause under sunny Florida skies.



Thirteen days later, Donn was discharged to hospice care at home with his bride. "I'm not a wedding planner," says the VITAS team manager, "but it's always been my motto that there are no do-overs in hospice care. We have to get it right the first time. This was a perfect example of why we do what we do...honoring someone's last wish to be married."

Kathleen Kashow is general manager for VITAS in Brevard County, Florida. For more information about end-of-life care options, call VITAS Healthcare at 321.339.2893 or visit VITAS.com.